

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 OFA-01 OC-05 CCO-00

EB-07 OES-05 SS-15 DLOS-04 L-03 DOTE-00 CG-00 TRSE-00

(ISO) W

----- 014762

P 231600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5429

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC NEWSPAPERS ARTICLES

FOLLOWING SEND ACTION CINCLANT INFO CINCLANTFLT, LANTCOMOSUPPFAC,
COMOCEANSYSLANT, AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK FROM AMIN COMICEDEFOR, KEFLAVIK
REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

N03800

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES FROM ICELANDIC NEWSPAPERS ARE QUOTED
FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. MORGUNBLADID - INDEPENDENCE PARTY NEWSPAPER OF 19 JUNE 75:
FOULED THE TRAWL IN A CABLE OFF STOKKSNES.

IN THE MORNING OF LAST SATURDAY THE STERN TRAWLER BJARTUR NK
121 FROM NESKAUPSTADUR FOULED ITS TRAWL GEAR IN A SUSPICIOUS CABLE,
QUITE STURDY, LYING OUT TO SEA FROM STOKKSNES (6415N6/01458W8)
AND, OR SO IT APPEARED, OUT INTO THE DEEP OCEAN. THE TRAWLER
FOULED ITS FISHING GEAR ON THIS CABLE SOME 12 NAUTICAL MILES OFF
STOKKSNES AND HAD TO CUT THE CABLE TO CLEAR IT OFF FROM THE TRAWL
DOORS. WHEN THE CREW CUT INTO THE CORE OF THIS CABLE IT TURNED
OUT TO HAVE ELECTRICAL CURRENT RUNNING THROUGH IT AND SPARKS FLEW.

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MORGUNBLADID INTERVIEWED CAPTAIN MAGNI KRISTJANNSON OF THE BJARTUR

YESTERDAY, WHO GAVE US THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

"WE FOULED THE TRAWL BADLY THERE DURING THE NIGHT AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO GET IT UP. WHEN WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET IT UP, ONE OF THE TWO TRAWL DOORS HAD A CABLE HANGING ON IT, A CABLE SOME SIX TO SEVEN INCHES THICK AND QUITE STURDY. THE CABLE WAS WOUND AROUND THE DOOR AND SO BADLY THAT WE COULD NOT GET IT OFF AND SINCE THIS CREATED TREMENDOUS WEIGHT AND PULL, THIS ALMOST TORE EVERYTHING FROM US. WE FINALLY RESORTED TO TRYING TO CUT THIS CABLE AND WHEN WE GOT TO THE CENTER OF IT, IT TURNED OUT THAT IT WAS LIVE WITH ELECTRICITY AND SPARKS FLEW BETWEEN WHEN WE CUT IT." MAGNI SAID, THAT THE CURRENT IN THE CABLE HAD OBVIOUSLY BE VERY LOW TENSION. WHEN THE CABLE HAD BEEN CUT, THE OTHER END WAS FOULED ON THE TRAWL DOOR AND FOR THIS REASON THE CREW OF THE BJARTUR MANAGED TO CUT ABOUT ONE METER SECTION OFF FROM THE CABLE, WHEN THEY HAD TO CUT IT AGAIN TO CLEAR THE TRAWL DOOR. A MARITIME COURT OF INQUIRY WAS HELD DUE TO THIS MATTER AT NESKAUPSTADUR YESTERDAY AND THE CABLE SECTION IS IN POSSESSION OF THE NESKAUPSTADUR TOWN BAILIFF. MAGNIS SAID THEAT HE HAD REQUESTED THAT THE BAILIFF'S OFFICE HOLD ON TO THIS CABLE SECTION FOR TWO DAYS OR SO IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHETHER ANYONE WANTS THE CABLE. HE SAID, THAT HE HAD NOTIFIED THE COAST GUARD ABOUT THIS THE FOLLOWING DAY. A FEW DAYS EARLIER, SAID MAGNI, SHIPS FISHING OFF STOKKSNES HAD DETECTED A LARGE GRAY PAINTED SHIP WITH TURRETS AND PLATFORMS AND NO ONE COULD IDENTIFY THE SHIP AS THERE WAS A LIGHT FOG IN THE AREA. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS AN AMERICAN RESEARCH SHIP. MAGNI SAID, THAT THE CABLE HAD BEEN SO HEAVY THAT HAD THE WEATHER NOT BEEN GOOD, THE TRAWL WOULD HAVE BEEN TORN AWAY FROM THE TRAWLER DUE TO THE WEIGHT OF THE CABLE. HE SAID, THAT AS FAR AS THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE CABLE APPEARED TO LIE IN A DIRECTION FROM THE SHORE OUT TO SEA. "THE CABLE WAS ON A BOTTOM WHERE WE HAVE NEVER FOULED OUR TRAWL GEAR BEFORE", SAID MAGNI. "THE BOTTOM IN THIS AREA VARIES QUITE MUCH, BUT IN THIS EXACT LOCATION THE BOTTOM IS VERY GOOD. FISHERMAN FEAR, THAT AS THIS CABLE HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF THE BOTTOM THEY MAY FOUL THEIR FISHING GEAR ON THIS CABLE AGAIN AND SINCE THIS IS IN A VERY GOOD FISHING AREA, FISHING IS PRACTISED IN THIS AREA MORE OR LESS THROUGH THE ENTIRE SUMMER". MAGNI MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT SOME FOUR WEEKS AGO THE BJARTUR HAD LOST A WHOLE TRAWL IN THIS SAME AREA. AT THAT TIME IT SURPRISED THE CREW QUITE MUCH THAT THE TRAWL COULD BE LOST IN THIS LOCATION. THEY NOW BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION AS WHY THE TRAWL WAS TORN OFF FROM THE SHIP AT

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THAT TIME. MARGUNBLADID TURNED TO GUSTAF ARNAR, DEPARTMENT ENGINEER WITH THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION AND INQUIRED, WHAT KIND OF A CABLE THIS COULD BE. GUSTAF SAID, THAT THIS COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE A CABLE USED FOR ORDINARY TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS AND THE SCOTICE CABLE IS FARTHER TO THE SOUTH AND REACHES SHORE IN THE WESTMEN ISLANDS. GUSTAF SAID, THAT HE COULD GUESS THAT THIS IS, ACCORDING TO THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY THE TRAWLER CAPTAIN, SOME KIND OF LISTENING DEVICE USED BY THE AMERICANS, THEN EITHER

FOR THEIR OWN SUBMARINES TO GET MESSAGES ASHORE TO THE STOKKSNES STATION, OR THEN A LISTENING SYSTEM TO LISTEN FOR SUBMARINES FROM OTHER NATIONS. HE SAID, THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REALIZE WHAT THIS IS, THAT HIS IS MERELY A GUESS, THAT THERE IS MUCH OF ALL KINDS OF LISTENING DEVICES IN THE OCEAN AROUND THE COUNTRY. DUE TO THIS NEWS REPORT, MORGUNBLADID DID YESTERDAY CALL ON COLONEL GLENDON DUNAWAY, WHO IS THE THIRD HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER OF THE DEFENSE FORCE AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT. DUNAWAY SAID, THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW THERE ARE NO CABLES IN THIS AREA AND MUCH LESS DID HE KNOW ABOUT CABLES BEING DAMAGED.

3. THJODVILJINN, COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, 19 JUNE 1975

AN AMERICAN NAVY SHIP INSTALLS A CABLE IN LONSBUGT: DISTURBS FISHING IN RICH FISHING GROUNDS. THE "SILDARVINNSLAN" COMPANY OF NESKAUPSTADUR DEMANDS AN INVESTIGATION FROM THJODVILJINN'S REPORTER AT NESKAUPSTADUR:

WHEN THE STERN TRAWLER BJARTUR NK 121 ARRIVED ON THE FISHING GROUNDS AT LONSBUGT AND BEGAN FISHING OPERATIONS ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE, THE CREW DETECTED A SUSPICIOUS SHIP ON THE FISHING GROUNDS THERE. A FOG WAS IN THE AREA AND THEY COULD NOT SEE THE SHIP WELL, BUT IT APPEARED TO BE SOME KIND OF A RESEARCH SHIP OR A CABLE LAYING SHIP. THE SHIP REMAINED IN THIS AREA FOR ABOUT TWENTY FOUR HOURS. A FEW SHIPS WERE FISHING IN THIS AREA AT THAT TIME. ON 14 JUNE THE BJARTUR FOULED ITS TRAWL NET ON THE BOTTOM IN THE LOCATION WHERE THE SUSPICIOUS SHIP HAD BEEN. THIS LOCATION IS 12 NAUTICAL MILES 103 DEGREES TRUE FROM STOKKSNES. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM CAPTAIN MAGNI KRISTJANSSON, THE TRAWL WAS BADLY STUCK ON SOMETHING ON THE BOTTOM BUT THEY MANAGED TO GET THE TRAWL DOORS UP. THEY LEARNED, THAT HANGING ON TO ONE OF THE TWO TRAWL DOORS WAS SOME KING OF A CABLE APPROXIMATELY SIX TO SEVEN INCHES IN DIAMETER. THEY COULD NOT CLEAR THE CABLE FROM THE TRAWL DOOR DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS. IT DID THEREFORE TURN OUT TO BE NECESSARY, TO GET THE FISHING GEAR CLEAR TO CUT THIS CABLE. WHEN THE CABLE PARTED, IT TURNED OUT TO BE LIVE WITH ELECTRICITY. THE BJARTUR BROUGHT A SECTION OF THIS CABLE ASHORE

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AND A MARITIME COURT OF INQUIRY INVESTIGATED THIS MATTER IN THE TOWN BAILIFF'S OFFICE OF NESKAUPSTADUR TODAY. MAGNI KRISTJANSSON CAPTAIN OF THE TRAWLER, NOTIFIED THE COAST GUARD AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE AFOREMENTIONED SHIP. THE COAST GUARD BELIEVED, THAT THE SHIP IN QUESTION HAD BEEN AN AMERICAN NAVY SHIP. MAGNI INFORMED OUR REPORTER, THAT THIS AREA HAS BEEN FISHED BY TRAWLERS FOR MANY YEARS AND THAT NO SHIP HAS EVER BEEN KNOWN TO FOUL ITS TRAWL GEAR ON THE BOTTOM IN THIS AREA UNTIL FOUR WEEKS AGO WHEN THE BJARTUR LOST A WHOLE SET THERE. PEOPLE ARE NOW WONDERING, WHETHER THE LOSS OF THAT PARTICULAR TRAWL SET COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES GREAT POWER. MAGNI KRISTJANSSON CAPTAIN SAID IN THE INTERVIEW WITH OUR REPORTER, QUOTE: "THIS CABLE, WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY FRESHLY INSTALLED IN THE SEA, IS IN A RICH FISHING AREA AND THE DANGER IS THAT IT WILL CAUSE DAMAGE FOR OTHERS THAN US." IF THE WEATHER HAD NOT BEEN AS GOOD AS IT WAS WHEN THIS INCIDENT

OCCURRED, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE TRAWL GEAR WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST. THE "SILDARVINNSLAN" COMPANY, OWNER OF THE BJARTUR, PLANS TO DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 OFA-01 OC-05 CCO-00

EB-07 OES-05 SS-15 DLOS-04 L-03 DOTE-00 CG-00 TRSE-00

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4. TIMINN, PROGRESSIVE PARTY NEWSPAPER, 19 JUNE 1975

AN ELECTRICAL CABLE FROM THE DEEP IN THE TRAWLER FISHING GROUNDS. H.J. REYKJAVIK - WHEN WE INTENDED HAULING IN THE TRAWL IN AN EXCELLENT FISHING AREA OFF HERE IN THE MORNING OF LAST SATURDAY, WE FOUND THE TRAWL GATE STUCK ON SOME DAMNED THING. WE FOUND IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO HAUL IN THE GEAR BUT WHEN WE FINALLY HAD THE NET IN WE FOUND, THAT A GREAT CABLE WAS STUCK TO ONE OF THE TWO TRAWL DOORS. THE WEATHER WAS PARTICULARLY CALM AND GOOD AT THIS TIME BUT IT'S CERTAIN, THAT HAD THE WEATHER BEEN ROUGH, WE WOULD HAVE LOST OUR FISHING GEAR- SAID MAGNI KRISTJANNSON, CAPTAIN OF THE BJARTUR NK 121 IN AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMINN, AFTER A MARITIME COURT OF INQUIRY INVESTIGATION IN NESKAUPSTADUR YESTERDAY. - THIS CABLE WAS FIRMLY STUCK ON THE TRAWL DOOR AND WE HAD TO CUT IT OFF AS IT PROVED QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAR IT OFF ANY OTHER WAY. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE SOME KIND OF ELECTRICAL CABLE AS WHEN WE HACKED ON IT, SPARKS FLEW. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN INVESTIGATED WHAT KIND OF CABLE THIS IS BUT WE TOOK PART OF THE CABLE HOME WITH US AND IT IS BEING INVESTIGATED. THE CABLE IS BRAND NEW AND WE REMEMBERED, THAT FOUR DAYS EARLIER WE HAD SEEN IN THE SAME LOCATION A VERY UNUSUAL SHIP WITH ALL KINDS OF TURRETS AND FUNNELS. WE DID AT THAT TIME CONTACT THE COAST

GUARD, WHICH BELIEVED THIS TO BE A RESEARCH SHIP FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY. AN IDENTICAL SHIP HAD BEEN SIGHTED BY THE CAPTAIN OF THE STERN TRAWLER VESTMANNAEY ON SELVOGSBANK IN APRIL AND THAT TURNED OUT TO BE AN AMERICAN RESEARCH SHIP. REGARDLESS OF WHO IS TO BLAME
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FOR THIS, THIS IS EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE THESE ARE VERY RICH FISHING GROUNDS WHERE FISHING IS CONSTANTLY GOING ON. IF WE HAD LOST THE TRAWL IN WORSE WEATHER IT CAN BE CONSIDERED CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD HAVE LOST THE GEAR. A SHORT TIME AGO WE LOST A TRAWL SET FOR TWO MILLION KRONUR IN A VERY SAFE TRAWLING AREA CLOSE TO THIS SPOT AND DID NOT AT THAT TIME HAVE ANY EXPLANATION TO WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED BUT UNDENIABLY ONE DOES NOW CONNECT THAT MISHAP TO THIS. IT IS STRANGE, THAT OTHER SHIPS HAVE BEEN FOULING THEIR TRAWL GEAR IN THIS AREA OF LATE ALTHOUGH SUCH HAS NEVER HAPPENED THERE BEFORE, MAGNI SAID AT LAST.
5. FURTHER INFORMATION AND TRANSLATIONS WILL FOLLOW AS AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FISHING BOATS, SHIP ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975REYKJA00699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750218-0237
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750624/aaaaavzi.tel
Line Count: 247
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELANDIC NEEWSPAPERS ARTICLES FOLLWOING SEND ACTION CINCLANT INFO CINCLANTFLT, LANTCOMOSUPPFAC
TAGS: MILI, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006